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PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

International Application of:

MASAKI MIZUTANI, et al.

Application No.: 10/563,115

Intl. Filing Date: May 17, 2005

371(c) Date: January 3, 2006

For: SILICON LAYER PRODUCTION  
METHOD AND SOLAR CELL  
PRODUCTION METHOD

May 11, 2006

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents, other than U.S. patent document, are enclosed.

Japan 11-162859, Japan 54-153784, Japan 49-11467, and U.S. Publication No. 2001/0051387, now U.S. Patent No. 6,429,035, were cited in the International Search Report and/or Written Opinion which issued in the corresponding international application. A copy of the International Search Report and a copy of the Written Opinion are enclosed.

The following documents are discussed at the following pages of the specification:

<u>Documents</u>	<u>Page(s)</u>
Japan 11-162859	1
Japan 61-261292	2
Japan 3-256324	2
Japan 5-82458	2, 4, 7

English-language abstracts for Japan 11-262859, Japan 61-261292, Japan 3-256324, and Japan 5-82458 are enclosed.

According to a commercial database, U.S. Patent No. 6,429,035 is in the same patent family as Japan 11-162859.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2) is believed due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner may charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205, should any fee be due for filing this paper.

Applicants request that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,  
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to  
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Vadnais', is written over a horizontal line.

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